



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

**Rules and Guidelines**  
**for the conduct of**  
**Track and Search Dog Trials**

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**Australian National Kennel Council Ltd 2008**

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**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
Australian National Kennel Council Limited**

(Australian National Kennel Council Ltd trading as Dogs Australia)

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Dogs ACT  
PO Box 815  
DICKSON ACT 2602  
Phone: (02) 6241 4404  
Email: [admin@dogsact.org.au](mailto:admin@dogsact.org.au) Website: [www.dogsact.org.au](http://www.dogsact.org.au)

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Dogs West  
602 Warton Road  
SOUTHERN RIVER WA 6110  
Phone: (08) 9455 1188 Fax: (08) 9455 1190  
Email: [k9@dogswest.com](mailto:k9@dogswest.com) Website: [www.dogswest.com](http://www.dogswest.com)

**QUEENSLAND**

Dogs Queensland  
PO Box 1136  
MT OMMANEY QLD 4074  
Phone: (07) 3252 2661 Fax: (07) 3252 3864  
Email: [info@dogsqueensland.org.au](mailto:info@dogsqueensland.org.au) Website: [www.dogsqueensland.org.au](http://www.dogsqueensland.org.au)

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Dogs NT  
PO Box 37521  
WINNELLIE NT 0821  
Phone: (08) 8984 3570 Fax: (08) 8984 3409  
Email: [info@dogsnt.com](mailto:info@dogsnt.com) Website: [www.dogsnt.com.au](http://www.dogsnt.com.au)

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

Dogs NSW  
PO Box 632  
ST MARYS NSW 1790  
Phone: (02) 9834 3022  
Email: [info@dogsnsw.org.au](mailto:info@dogsnsw.org.au) Website: [www.dogsnsw.org.au](http://www.dogsnsw.org.au)

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Dogs SA  
PO Box 844  
PROSPECT EAST SA 5082  
Phone: (08) 8349 4797  
Email: [info@dogssa.com.au](mailto:info@dogssa.com.au) Website: [www.dogssa.com.au](http://www.dogssa.com.au)

**TASMANIA**

Dogs Tasmania  
PO Box 116  
GLENORCHY TAS 7010  
Phone: (03) 6272 9443 Fax: (03) 6273 0844  
Email: [admin@tasdogs.com](mailto:admin@tasdogs.com) Website: [www.tasdogs.com](http://www.tasdogs.com)

**VICTORIA**

Dogs Victoria  
Locked Bag K9  
CRANBOURNE VIC 3977  
Phone: (03) 9788 2500 Fax: (03) 9788 2599  
Email: [office@dogsvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@dogsvictoria.org.au) Website: [www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### RULES

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page No</b>
INTRODUCTION.....	4
DECISIONS.....	4
REMOVAL OF DOG/WITHDRAWAL OF DOG.....	5
DISQUALIFICATION.....	5
ELIGIBILITY.....	5
TITLES.....	5
EQUIPMENT.....	6
EXHIBITS.....	7
JUDGES.....	7
TRACKLAYER.....	7
GENERAL.....	8
SAFETY.....	9
GRADINGS.....	10
NOTES FOR AFFILIATES.....	10
TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD).....	10
Test 1.....	10
Test 2.....	11
Test 3.....	12
TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX).....	12
Test 4.....	12
Test 5 [Urban Track].....	13
Test 6 [Urban Evening/Night Track].....	14
TRACK AND SEARCH CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Ch).....	14
Test 7 [Urban Track].....	14
Test 8 [Urban Evening/Night Track].....	15
TRACK AND SEARCH GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Grand Ch).....	16
Test 9 [Urban Track].....	16
Test 10 [Urban Evening/Night Track].....	17
SUMMARY.....	18

## **RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRACK AND SEARCH DOG TRIALS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Track and Search Dog Tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions. The principal goal in track and search is for the dog to find the Tracklayer.

The tests should be as close as possible to a life-like situation, where a dog is used to find a missing person and therefore the test should be as realistic as possible while demonstrating the dog's willingness and enthusiasm to follow a specific scent.

This is a test of the dog, to follow the track using all their natural skills. This includes searching as well as tracking and which may involve air scenting.

All Track and Search Tests are to be conducted in urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas.

The tests require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, roads and grass. Tracks should be as natural as possible, bearing in mind that lost children are drawn to playgrounds, while adults are drawn to buildings to seek help.

Tracks may cross small streams or shallow bodies of water, roads (but not including major roads) and may be laid in contaminated areas which may include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas or similar structures. Light vehicle & pedestrian traffic including other dogs walking on lead should not be avoided.

Where referred to in the rules the words, Member Body, shall mean the Controlling Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

Interpretation of these rules should not be necessary, however, should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification; application must be made by the Member Body to the appropriate Committee of the ANKC, whose decision shall be binding.

As Track and Search Trials are conducted in public areas, it is possible that the dog and Handler could encounter other animals, pedestrians and/or vehicular traffic during the search. The Handler has full responsibility for and must have complete control over the dog throughout all stages of the trial.

It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate to check relevant State Dog Act and Local Government Dog Acts prior to trial to ensure any permits/requirements are met.

### **DECISIONS**

Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting a trial shall be subject to appeal to the Member Body in the State or Territory in which the trial is conducted.

The Rules of the Member Body shall apply to all Track and Search Trials and to any Affiliate conducting the track and search trials and, in the event of inconsistency; the rules of the Member Body shall prevail.

Anyone taking part in a trial who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Member Body.

## REMOVAL OF DOG

The Judge must order the removal and disqualification from all trial competition on the day any dog that attacks and must lodge a report with the Member Body.

The Judge may order the removal from competition of any dog which does not obey its Handler or is not under effective control or, any Handler who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a competitor's dog or whose behaviour is objectionable and must exclude from competition any dog which the Judge considers unfit to compete.

## WITHDRAWAL OF DOG

A dog may be withdrawn before or during judging with the consent of the Judge and must not take any further part in the Track and Search Dog Trial.

## DISQUALIFICATION

No rating given. The dog is disqualified from all trial competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Member Body within fourteen (14) days.

## ELIGIBILITY

A dog must be a minimum of six (6) months of age to enter in a Track and Search Trial.

Whilst there is no formal obedience assessment, it is understood that because of the possibility of other animals, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, the Handler must be confident that they have complete control over the dog.

## TITLES

To qualify for the title of Track and Search Dog (TSD), Track and Search Dog Excellent (TSDX), Track and Search Dog Champion (TS Ch) and Track and Search Grand Champion (TS Grand Ch) a dog must pass each of the following tests once:

Track & Search Dog (TSD)	Test 1 (known person) Test 2 (unknown person) Test 3 (unknown person)
Track & Search Dog Excellent (TSDX) Urban Track Urban Night Track	Test 4 (unknown person) Test 5 (unknown person) Test 6 (unknown person)
Track & Search Dog Champion (TS Ch) Urban Track Urban Night Track	Test 7 (unknown person) Test 8 (unknown person)
Track & Search Grand Champion (TS Grand Ch) Urban Track Urban Night Track	Test 9 (unknown person) Test 10 (unknown person)

- A) A maximum of two different tests, within a title, may be worked on the same day by the same dog, subject to the approval of the Member Body and the availability of additional tracks.
- B) Dogs must complete in order Test 1 through to Test 10.
- C) The dog must qualify under at least two (2) different Judges for the TSD, TSDX, TS Ch and TS Grand Ch titles to be granted.
- D) An Exhibit, which has gained sufficient awards to qualify for a Track and Search Dog Title, shall not be eligible to compete for a higher title at a track and search dog trial until such time as the owner/s have lodged an application for recognition of the title with the Member Body in the State or Territory in which the registered owner/s reside.

- E) The TSD (Track & Search Dog), TSDX (Track & Search Dog Excellent), TS Ch (Track & Search Dog Champion) and TS Grand Ch (Track & Search Dog Grand Champion) certificates may be granted on application to the Member Body concerned.
- F) After qualifying for the TS Grand Ch (Track & Search Grand Champion) certificate a dog is not eligible for further entry in Track and Search Trials. No further qualifying certificates can be awarded once this title has been granted.
- G) A Member Body will receive applications for the title of Dual Champion in connection with each dog which has gained titles of Conformation (Ch.) and Track & Search Champion (TS Ch.)

## **EQUIPMENT**

- (a) All Track and Search Dog Tests must be conducted with a dog in a Hi Viz shirt or Hi Viz harness. The harness must be suitable for tracking that does not restrict the dog's breathing and allows the dog to move freely. The lead must be a minimum of five (5) metres and no longer than six (6) metres. The dog must be worked at a length of lead suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with local government requirements. The lead must be connected to the harness and should be held by the Handler while the dog is tracking or searching. Dropping the lead temporarily is acceptable provided that the dog remains under control.

The lead used in all Urban Evening/Night Tests (Tests 6, 8 and 10) to be reflective. If requested by the Judge at any time, the Handler must coil the lead in their hand and not leave it to trail behind them.

During a track the dog may wear a fixed collar along with a suitable harness or only a harness. When a dog is tracking, the lead must only be connected to the harness. The dog may wear a tick collar.

Dogs must not have any item hanging from the dog's collar or harness other than a council registration tag or an identification tag with the dog's details on it i.e., name and contact phone number. A dog may wear a collar that contains phone numbers and name and is stitched into the collar material.

- (b) All articles used on the track should belong to the Tracklayer and be approved by the Judge or their delegate and should represent articles used in everyday life that a child or adult might carry and drop; i.e. wallet, purse, mobile phone, sunglasses, notebook, bunch of keys, soft toy or cap etc. All articles must be small enough to fit into a normal size pocket. The optional Finish Article, if used in place of the Tracklayer, must be no larger than a normal sized T shirt or similar and should be clearly marked Finish Article. Articles used on the track should not have any sharp or protruding parts that may cause injury to the dog.

If a Tracklayer does not have articles of their own, the articles supplied for their use must be on their person for a minimum of 30 minutes.

- (c) The starting article should be a soft article of clothing that can be easily carried by the Handler. E.g. fabric hat, beanie, cloth glove, etc.
- (d) Test 1 will commence at a marker. Tests 2 to 4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by two (2) markers approximately thirty (30) metres apart.
- (e) The suitability of all tracking equipment shall be left to the discretion of the Judge.
- (f) No markers or equipment indicating the track shall remain in place during the testing of a

dog. The Judge must make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that the Handler receives no guidance, other than from their dog, as to where the track goes.

- (g) The Handler may not offer food or utilise training aids during the running of a track, however water may be offered to the dog.

## **EXHIBITS**

- (a) Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in trials, nor remain within the precincts of a trial. An examination of all bitches to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.
- (b) The order of judging must be decided prior to commencement of the trial. However, the order of judging can be modified during the trial if there is a change of circumstances which necessitates a change in running order to maintain the smooth running of the trial.

## **JUDGES**

- (a) Judges must be licensed with the Member Body in their respective State or Territory to judge Track and Search Dog Trials.
- (b) The maximum number of Track and Search dogs to be judged on one day will be governed by a point system as follows:

TSD test	2 points
TSDX test	3 points
TS Champion test	3 points
TS Grand Champion test	3 points

A combination of TSD, TSDX, TS Champion and TS Grand Champion tracks must not exceed 27 points for any Judge on one day. Judges may specify on their contracts how many points they are willing to judge.
- (c) In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the Judge may, in rare cases and at their own discretion, re-judge a dog on another track.
- (d) A dog which commences a track and fails at the start shall be deemed to have trialed.
- (e) The Judge must sign a qualifying certificate for each qualifying dog, denoting the type of track passed.
- (f) The relevant Member Body reports to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Member Body as required.
- (g) Judges should be mindful that in urban environments articles may be moved or removed.
- (h) Judges should position themselves on the track so that they can properly evaluate the dog's performance and to ensure that the dog is given adequate time and distance to work out scenting problems particularly around heavily contaminated areas and buildings. Judges should be familiar with scenting conditions in areas which consist of more than just vegetation. Buildings, other structures and various surfaces can affect the scent.
- (i) The Judge at all times must be within hearing distance of the Handler.
- (j) It is desirable that the Judge be involved in the setting out of the track.

## **TRACKLAYER**

- (a) The Tracklayer shall be a person approved by the Judge and whose identity must be unknown to the Handler and have not previously laid a track for that dog within the preceding four (4) months, in a Track and Search Trial, except in the case of TSD test 1 where a known

person shall be any person known to the dog and nominated by the Handler. It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate conducting the trial to make a genuine effort to ensure that only unknown Tracklayers are used.

- (b) Before starting the track, the Tracklayer must show the Judge or their delegate all the articles to be used. These articles are to be with the Tracklayer for at least 30 minutes prior to laying the Track so that their scent may be imparted to them.
- (c) The Tracklayer must place the articles on the track at the places nominated by the Judge, one article to be at the commencement of each track in addition to the others required.
- (d) All articles must be placed on the track but not on a turn or less than thirty (30) metres before or after a turn.
- (e) The Tracklayer will walk at a normal pace and must not scratch the ground or stop unnecessarily while laying the track.
- (f) The Tracklayer must follow the track, which has been marked out earlier, collecting all markers as specified in the type of track and by the Judge. Where markers are not utilised, a detailed map showing clear indicators will be provided to the Tracklayer.
- (g) Upon completion of laying the track the Tracklayer need not remain at the end of the track, however the Tracklayer must be in place at the end of the track when the Handler and dog complete the track

OR

The Tracklayer must place the clearly marked Finish Article in the position indicated by a marker on the map so it cannot be seen by the Handler as they approach the finish. After placing the Finish Article the Tracklayer removes the marker and continues on for a minimum of thirty (30) metres past the finish before leaving on the walking out route.

## **GENERAL**

- (a) There is no time limit, provided the dog is working.
- (b) To qualify the dog must track and search to complete at least 50% of the principle components of the track, including the number of turns in each test and the car section where applicable. The weather and external conditions must be taken into consideration by the Judge, who at their discretion may allow less than 50% of tracks to be completed by the dog and to still obtain a pass.
- (c) The dog must be under the Handler's control at all stages of the trial.
- (d) A dog that is working too fast, on instructions from the Judge, must be gently restrained by the Handler but any leading or guiding of the dog constitutes grounds for calling the dog off and marking it failed. Failure to obey the Judge's instruction for restraint will render the dog liable to disqualification.
- (e) The test is completed when the Tracklayer or location of Finish Article is found, or in the event of failure, when the Handler is redirected to the correct track.
- (f) The Handler must not be given any guidance by the Judge or any other person.
- (g) If a dog is not working it must not be marked "Pass" even though it may have found the Tracklayer or Finish Article location.
- (h) The minimum distance between any parallel legs of the same track must be one hundred (100) metres. Any other tracks that are closer than 100 metres must have different Tracklayers.
- (i) Tests 1-10 may cross one (1) separate track, a maximum of two (2) times. A different Tracklayer and, where applicable, different diversion Tracklayers must be used for each of the two (2) tracks.
- (j) A track may be reused for testing a second dog, provided the minimum time lapse between the tracks is one (1) hour. The time lapse is from the time the first dog commences the track, to the time when the Tracklayer for the second track is sent out. A different Tracklayer



should be used when tracks are reused on the same day. The second Tracklayer is not to commence walking the track until the first track is completed.

- (k) At the Handler's option, the dog may be given the scent during the track. Except for extenuating circumstances the Judge will penalise such instances accordingly and the dog that is constantly given the scent must fail.
- (l) Handlers may speak to their dogs during the track. The Judge may penalise if they consider such talk excessive.
- (m) Reprimands either physical or verbal will not be tolerated. Reprimands will be severely penalised up to and including disqualification.
- (n) Spectators will not be permitted to approach closer than forty (40) metres to the Judge when the dog is working.
- (o) **Thirty (30) day suspension.**

Dogs, which have failed on two consecutive occasions, may be subject to a thirty (30) day suspension from competing at a track and search dog trial. This thirty (30) day suspension will only take effect if the Affiliate conducting the Track and Search Dog Trial has to ballot for the tests available. Affiliates which do not have to ballot for available tests, must not invoke the thirty (30) day rule under any circumstances. Suspensions will not be carried over a calendar year. It is the responsibility of the Handler to advise the Affiliate of two consecutive fails. Failure to do so will result in a report to the Member Body.

**(p) Balloting**

Should a club need to restrict entries due to resource constraints, it may ballot for the tests available. Separate ballots may be conducted for tests in different titles (e.g. a ballot for tests 1-3, a ballot for tests 4-6, a ballot for tests 7-8, and a ballot for tests 9-10). The rules for balloting will be those of the Member Body concerned.

- (q) Acute corners should not be used on any of the tracks.
- (r) The dog must ignore the diversion scent and must work to the main Tracklayer's scent.  
Diversion from this main scent by more than ten (10) metres must result in a fail.
- (s) Track and Search Dog Trials may be conducted on the same day as Tracking Trials.
- (t) For all tests the distance from the start to the finish, measured in a straight line, should be no less than 50% of the stated length of the track.

**SAFETY**

The safety of competitors, Tracklayers, officials, other persons, and dogs at a trial is of paramount concern. As track and search tests are conducted in urban environments where there are likely to be hazards including moving vehicles and uneven surfaces all reasonable steps to protect safety must be taken.

A competitor who does not comply with safety requirements must be disqualified. Before commencing judging a test the Judge must check that the dog and Handler have on the necessary equipment. A Judge may abort or suspend a track at any time if they consider it necessary to do so for safety.

- (a) The Tracklayer when walking urban tracks will be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety Steward. It is not necessary and in most cases not desirable for the Tracklayer to remain at the end of the track but must be in place before the track is worked, unless a finish article is used.
- (b) Officials involved in running a trial (including Judges and safety Stewards) as well as Tracklayers must be able to communicate with each other during the trial (e.g. via mobile phone or radio).

- (c) At least one safety Steward must walk near the Handler while working urban tracks or any other track as required by the Judge. The safety Steward is to alert the Handler to any impending hazards such as vehicles, cyclists, stray dogs, pedestrians so that if required, evasive action can be taken (the safety Steward may not guide the handler as to where the track is). The safety Steward may direct the Handler to temporarily stop and/or to bring their dog to heel to avoid a hazard. A Handler who has been directed to stop for safety may re-scent their dog without penalty.
- (d) When crossing a road the Handler should work the dog on a short lead and gather the remainder of the lead up so that it does not drag on the road.
- (e) The Handler, Judge and Stewards must wear high visibility vests or jackets on all tracks. In addition, on night tracks the dog must wear a harness or vest that includes reflective material and/or a LED light. The lead must incorporate reflective material and the Handler must wear a functioning headlamp.
- (f) The dog must be under control of the Handler during all stages of the trial.
- (g) The Judge must disqualify any Handler who does not comply with safety requirements.

**GRADINGS**

The following evaluation will be given for:

<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>
Pass	A dog that fails will be marked "Fail"
Good	
Very Good	
Excellent	

- (a) The dog should indicate the articles by sitting, standing, downing, picking up, or at least pausing (i.e. stationary) to the satisfaction of the Judge.
- (b) A dog must be marked "fail" if it does not find or indicate the required number of articles.
- (c) A dog that does not indicate an article on any test will receive a downgrading in their result.
- (d) If an article, including the Finish Article, has been moved/removed from its designated position on the track then no downgrading should be applied. The grading of the dog's performance will be at the Judge's discretion.

**NOTES FOR AFFILIATES**

At Track and Search Trials an area or areas should be allotted where competitors and their dogs must remain until called by an official. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

**TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)**

**Test 1**

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, concrete/bitumen pathways or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

The start marker will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the start marker, the Tracklayer will place one (1) of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the start marker, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The dog must then track and search for and locate the lost person or the location of the Finish Article.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track will be one (1) hour and the maximum two (2) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 articles placed on the track.

A minimum of one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or location of the Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## **TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)**

### **Test 2**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, concrete/bitumen pathways or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

The main Tracklayer shall follow a track accompanied by the diversion Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will accompany the main Tracklayer for not less than thirty (30) metres from the start and leave no closer than thirty (30) metres from the first change of direction while the main Tracklayer continues on the tracks.

The start marker will be removed by the main Tracklayer. The starting line markers will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line and open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking. The Judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the Tracklayer walked.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be one (1) hour and the maximum two (2) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or the location of the Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

### **TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)**

#### **Test 3**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, concrete/bitumen pathways or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

Approximately 30 minutes after the main Tracklayer has commenced the track, the first part of the track will be re-walked by a diversion Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will re-walk the track for not less than thirty (30) metres from the start and leave no closer than thirty (30) metres from the first change of direction.

The start marker and all other flags indicating the direction of the track, up to the point where the diversion Tracklayer makes their turn; will be left in position by the main Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will remove the start marker and all other flags up to the point where the main Tracklayer has continued on. The starting line flags will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking. The Judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the Tracklayer walked.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

### **TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)**

#### **Test 4**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, roads, paved surfaces, concrete/bitumen pathways or similar.

At least 50% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

This track should start in a contaminated area such as a road-end. If the area is not subject to foot traffic, two deliberate fresh cross tracks are to be laid by unknown Tracklayers who should cross the track just prior to the dog and Handler working the track.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The Judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the Tracklayer walked.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track at least one must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or the location of the Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## **TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)**

### **Test 5 [Urban Day Track]**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the Handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting point, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## **TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)**

### **Test 6 [Urban Evening/Night Track]**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the Handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## **TRACK AND SEARCH CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Ch)**

### **Test 7 [Urban Day Track]**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

At a point selected by the Judge the dog will halt and wait for approximately two (2) minutes. During this time the Judge will approach and speak briefly to the Handler. This pause will be between five hundred (500) and seven hundred (700) metres from the start and not within thirty (30) metres of a change of direction. The Judge will indicate to the Handler when to recommence. The Handler may re-scent the dog but this may result in a downgrading.

The track will have 5 to 7 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the Handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be three (3) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## **TRACK AND SEARCH CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Ch)**

### **Test 8 [Urban Evening/Night Track]**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

At a point selected by the Judge the dog will halt and wait for approximately two (2) minutes. During this time the Judge will approach and speak briefly to the Handler. This pause will be between five hundred (500) and seven hundred (700) metres from the start and not within thirty (30) metres of a change of direction. The Judge will indicate to the Handler when to recommence. The Handler may re-scent the dog but this may result in a downgrading.

The track will have 5 to 7 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the Handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be three (3) hours and the maximum four (4) hours, from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## **TRACK AND SEARCH GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Grand Ch)**

### **Test 9 (Urban Day Track)**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1,200 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Tracklayer will commence walking the trail and at some point after the first turn the Tracklayer will be picked up and travel in a motor vehicle with the windows open, for a distance of approximately two hundred (200) metres. This portion of the track must include one turn. Following this the Tracklayer will leave the vehicle and complete the trail on foot to the designated end.

The track will have 6 to 8 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the Handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic to shorten the lead if necessary to ensure the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.



At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be four (4) hours and the maximum five (5) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## **TRACK AND SEARCH GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Grand Ch)**

### **Test 10 (Urban Evening/Night Track)**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1,200 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Tracklayer will commence walking the trail and at some point after the first turn the Tracklayer will be picked up and travel in a motor vehicle with the windows open, for a distance of approximately three hundred (300) metres. This portion of the track must include two turns. Following this the Tracklayer will leave the vehicle and complete the trail on foot to the designated end.

The track will have 6 to 8 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the Handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic, shorten the lead if necessary ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting point, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be four (4) hours and the maximum five (5) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the Finish Article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

### **SUMMARY**

The major features of all track & search tests are summarised in the table below, which is provided for explanatory purposes only.

Test #	Day/Night	Length (metres)	Min.% non-vegetated	Changes of direction	Additional components	Time Delay (hours)	Tracklayer
1	Day	800	25%	3 to 5		1 to 2	Known
2	Day	800	25%	3 to 5	Diversion 2 together	1 to 2	Unknown
3	Day	800	25%	3 to 5	Diversion 1 - 30 minutes after	2 to 4	Unknown
4	Day	1000	50%	4 to 6	Contaminated start	2 to 4	Unknown
5	Day Urban	800	80%	4 to 6		2 to 4	Unknown
6	Night Urban	800	80%	4 to 6		2 to 4	Unknown
7	Day Urban	1000	80%	5 to 7	2 min. pause	3 to 4	Unknown
8	Night Urban	1000	80%	5 to 7	2 min. pause	3 to 4	Unknown
9	Day Urban	1200	80%	6 to 8	Car 200m 1 turn	4 to 5	Unknown
10	Night Urban	1200	80%	6 to 8	Car 300 m 2 turns	4 to 5	Unknown